January 1, 1969

Honorable James J. Rowley
Director, U. S. Secret Service
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rowley:

Although you have sometimes failed to respond to my letters at all in the past, have never replied with full forthrightness or without evasiveness, I persist in what for an American should not be a strange notion, that at some point his government and its officials will deal with him in a completely aboveboard manner. This, it seems to me, is especially important when the subject matter is the murder of an American President and those government officials know that the official explanation is not correct, and are, in their own ways, so recorded.

Perhaps, with the new year, there will be a new spirit in Washington, a willingness not to suppress and misrepresent.

It is with this hope and spirit that I write you about Secret Service evidence, Control Nos. 703 and 109, and what, according to the National Archives, is missing from their files.

The first words after the synopsis of Control No. 703 are, "Reference is made to previous reports in this case, particularly report dated 11/25/63 by SAIC L.M.Benavides and my memorandum to SAIC Benavides dated 11/26/63."

If the first part of this sentence refers to the other person named in it, it cannot be found under his name at the Archives. If it refers to Mrs. John Tarsikes, there is nothing further on her. And if it refers to other aspects of the same subject, there, too, whatever SAIC Rice refers to is not found. His memo of 11/26/63 also is not there. All of this should not be, because it should all have been supplied the Warren Commission and hence remain in its files. If, for any reason, it has been misfiled or otherwise disappeared, I presume you can and will replace it promptly. If it is not in the files, or was not, it can be only because the Secret Service did not supply it, and that I do not believe.

It seems difficult to believe the Secret Service, which had its own considerable interest in tracing down some parts of this story (until it was forced out of it), allowed the matter to rest at the unsatisfactory point where these reports leave it. I would appreciate reference to any subsequent reports on Mrs. Tarsikes and others involved in this subject, and on the subject itself, and being informed when the missing documents are replaced.

If the Secret Service turned this aspect over to the FBI, which what I have seen in the files does not indicate, I would appreciate knowing that.

I hope it will be as obvious to you as it is to me that there is nothing at all here justifying any secrecy, nothing that can in any way damage innocent people, nor anything that will disclose technical secrets or sources of information.

Please, may I hear from you promptly and fully?

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg